

The following statement is prepared by others but I concur whole heartedly in its spirit and content. I have been in broadcasting for over 40 years and feel that the spirit of a free and independent media has been compromised by the FCC, SEC and FTC laws allowing the concentration of ownership of properties. Ownership of a broadcast license is granted by the government to perform a service to the public. It is therefore a trust, a stewardship, to serve the public in as fair as possible manner. Use of the airways, as well as use of the government and its agencies, is not in keeping with the trust the public has put in the hands of the government to give to the licensees. Please stop Sinclair Broadcasting from going through with these plans and further work toward breaking up the multiownership of radio, tv, cable, and newspapers. Not just for the sake of fair and objective journalism but also for the benefit of small business and quality of broadcast and journalistic product.

of Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.